

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

--1. - 14. (Cancelled)

--15. (Previously Presented) A reproducing apparatus for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in a plurality of recording regions as said sampled data are separated into a plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading signals from said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

control means for controlling whether signals on each of said plurality of recording regions read by said readout means are to be reproduced individually or signals of a plurality of said regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

--16. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said readout means reads said signals from each of said plurality of recording regions and said control means synthesizes data obtained from each of said plurality of recording regions to reproduce said synthesized data.

--17. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said readout means includes a plurality of readout mechanisms.

--18. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein n represents a number of said recording regions, said readout means uses a single readout mechanism for reading said plurality of recording regions, and said control means causes said readout means to read said plurality of recording regions at a rate not less than n times a rate required by audio signals recorded in said respective regions to buffer said read audio signals to output said buffered signals when a volume of said buffered signals reaches a predetermined volume.

--19. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein when said recording medium is a disc shaped recording medium having two recording layers, said control means uses said readout means to reproduce a first layer, said control means in reproducing an other layer shifts to a point temporally previous to a replay end time point of said first layer to initiate reproduction, and said control means shifts after reproduction of said other layer to a point temporally posterior to said replay end time point to shift reproduction to said first layer.

--20. (Previously Presented) A reproducing method for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which

sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in a plurality of recording regions as said sampled data are separated into a plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing method comprising the steps of:

reading signals from said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

controlling whether signals of each of said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium read are to be reproduced individually or signals recorded in at least two of said plurality of regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

--21. (Previously Presented) A recording medium comprising:

a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals is recorded; and

a second recording region in which a second portion of audio signals is recorded.

--22. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said recording medium includes a first recording layer in which said first recording region is provided and a second recording layer arranged in superposition on said first recording layer, said second recording region being provided in said second recording

layer.

--23. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said first recording region and said second recording region are arranged so that one of either said first and said second recording regions is on an inner peripheral side of an other of said first and said second recording regions.

--24. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein one of said first and said second portions of said audio signals includes a lyric, and an other portion includes accompaniment music.

--25. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein a discrimination signal indicating whether said first and said second portions recorded in said first recording region and in said second recording region are to be summed or subtracted is recorded.

--26. (Previously Presented) A method for reproducing a recording medium having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of said audio signals is recorded, said recording medium having a discrimination signal indicating whether said first and second portions at least are to be summed or subtracted recorded on said recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

reading said first portion from said first recording region and reading said second portion from said second recording region;

reproducing said first and said second portions read; and
outputting said first portion reproduced and second portion reproduced based on said discrimination signal read from said recording medium.

--27. (Previously Presented) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein when said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates summing said first and said second signals and reproducing a resulting summed signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are summed and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--28. (Previously Presented) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein when said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates subtracting said first and said second signals and reproducing a resulting subtraction signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are processed with subtraction and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--29. (Previously Presented) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein said first portion is read by a

single readout means from said first recording region of said recording medium, processed for replay, and buffered; and said second portion is read from said second recording region, processed for replay, and buffered.

--30. (Previously Presented) The reproducing method according to claim 29, wherein signals obtained by reproducing said buffered first portion and signals obtained by reproducing said buffered second portion are processed and reproduced based on a discrimination signal read from said recording medium.

--31. (Previously Presented) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein one of said first portion of audio signals recorded in said first recording region and said second portion of audio signals recorded in said second recording region contains a signal including a lyric, and an other portion contains a signal including accompaniment music.

--32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for reproducing a recording medium having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals supplied is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of said audio signals supplied is recorded, wherein a discrimination signal indicating whether said first and said second portions are to be output either of on summation and on subtraction is recorded on said recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading said first portion from said

first recording region and for reading said second portion from said second recording region;

first reproducing means for reproducing said first portion read;

second reproducing means for reproducing said second portion read; and

processing means for processing said first portion reproduced and said second portion reproduced based on said discrimination signal read from said recording medium as an output signal from said first reproducing means and an output signal from said second reproducing means.

--33. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein if said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates summing said first and said second signals and reproducing a resulting summed signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are summed and said resulting signal is reproduced.

--34. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein if said discrimination signal read from said recording medium indicates processing said first and said second signals with subtraction and reproducing a resulting subtraction signal, said first portion read from said first recording region and said second portion read from said second region are processed with subtraction and said

resulting signal is reproduced.

--35. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said first reproducing means includes a first reproducing processing unit for reproducing said first portion read by said readout means from said first recording region and a first buffer memory for buffering output data from said first reproducing processing unit; and said second reproducing means includes a second reproducing processing unit for reproducing said second portion read by said readout means from said second recording region and a second buffer memory for buffering output data from said second reproducing processing unit.

--36. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein a discrimination signal is recorded on said recording medium, said signal indicating whether said first and said second portions recorded in said first and said second recording regions are to be either of summed and subtracted for outputting.